

(Uncovered on my desk 12/5. Jow long ago a month ago now seems! How much has changed!)
Dear Sam,

11/7/91

Beginning with the upsurge in Bush's popularity when Saddam invaded Kuwait and increasing greatly with the beginning of the Gulf war the so-called experts were marveling that Bush would be unbeatable in the coming election. The columnists, among these experts, all echoed the political wisdom that even the Democrats seemed to agree with.

You were impressed with this conventional wisdom and shared the belief that there would be no chance of defeating him come a year from this month.

If you remember, I then said that there was plenty of time, even though no Democrats had announced, and that the domestic situation was so much worse than ^{because} was being admitted it would make a big difference long before the election.

Come this past Tuesday and the best-known man in Pennsylvania, with all the conventionally valuable credentials, expected to have been a shoe-in for the Senate seat, campaigned for and repeatedly promoted by the also supposed shoe-in a year in the future, Bush, this man, twice governor and formerly Attorney General of the United State, had lost a lead of almost 50 points and was defeated by 10%, a significant difference in an election.

He was beaten by a man who was little known and who ⁱⁿ the short time he had been in the Senate, an appointee, had not made a name for himself. *And an unabashed liberal.*

So, how could it happen? How could I have been right in saying that Bush could be beaten and all the experts be wrong?

It is not that I am brighter than they, please believe me, or more experienced in such matters. It is rather that they have in recent years become the creatures of their environment, each believing the other and all living in a world of illusions they invented, a two-dimensional world, like the one the GOP created with and for Reagan. How flat their world is illustrated by their failures when Bush Willie Horton/Dukakis and he and his experts created their own flat-world society restricted to intellectuals and then added the Alger Hiss mistake, of being calm and composed when the situation cried out for anger and a cutting, slashing response.

Willie Horton was a turning point more significant than a series of what could and should have been turning points and the failures and abdication of the experts then assured them all of their own wisdom and perception.

They'd made Willie Horton possible therefore the Willie Horton approach would forever be successful, victorious.

The record seemed to bear them out. All those successful vetoes, made possible by the hovering ghost of Willie Horton. All the accolades from the major media with each administration announcement that the corner had been turned, without any one of the experts remembering those two chickens in every pot, two cars in every garage of the past. and what then followed, the Great Depression.

Many factors seemed to assure that the electorate would continue enchanted, mesmerized and the major media provided such assurance with each glowing administration announcement of economic improvement and health. Nobody remembered that the GOP ~~that~~ exported all the better jobs, aided and assisted by the large corporations that from greed had not modernized - but nonetheless continued to be regarded as experts. Nobody attributed any importance to the growing number of ~~less~~^{home}less, the steadily increasing unemployed the real total of which was hidden although all the media knew that many had exhausted their unemployment benefits and were not counted. Many other factors were ignored. But there was nothing secret about them. Only the major media ignored them and the mass of the most uninformed electorate in the world continued to seem to believe that they were still in the best of possible worlds.

Until there came this virtual stranger in Pennsylvania who got so little attention outside that state and he told the truth as often as he could and started talking about the vital issues ignored by the national administration and the governor who was the shoo-in candidate.

Which gets back to what I told you (and others) when there was that great upsurge in Bush's popularity that came from one ghastly blunder after another, all Willie-Hortog hailed as great accomplishments when they were the opposite, disasters.

None of the acknowledged experts remembered that you can fool some of the people some of the time but you can't fool all of the people all of the time.

These experts never learned the actualities represented by Poe's story of The Purloined letter and they could not see what was in their very faces.

So what I am really talking about is not how perceptive I was because it required no unusual perception to see what I saw I thought clearly. I am talking about how once again all of the institutions of our society (not that the various experts are in themselves a separate institution) always fail us in time of stress. The pundits, the professors of economics, the political leaders, the major media - all of them.

With some last-minute help from the shocking admission that 10 % of our people require food stamps to survive, the 65-year-old told the emperor he was naked and once this was said enough people saw his ugliness.

Or, don't trust the experts! Most of us can be our own experts if we can sweep the mists of the acknowledged experts from before our eyes.

I am reminded that I had 100 or more rejections of my first book internationally, all by experts, and without any money I was able to publish it and make a success of it.

Within our lifetime our experts have become a plague.

Now we'll learn if Willie Horton can rise from his grave and do it all over again. It can't be done by this administration any other way. I continue to believe that a stake may yet be driven through that vampire's heart.

Please excuse typing. Fingertips cracked. Best,

Ken